(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/policy adopted to eliminate Child Labour from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Authentic information on Child Labour is generated during the decennial census which is a head count as against sample surveyes. As per the 1991 Census, the total number of working children in the country is 11.28 million.

(c) Government has a National Policy on Child Labour which contains on action plan for dealing with the problem of Child Labour. It envisages:

— A legislation action plan,

— Focusing of general development programmes for benefiting children wherever possible, and

— Project-based action plans in areas of high concentration of child labour engaged in wage/quasi-wage employment.

Government of India has been implementing two schemes for the welfare and rehabilitation of child labourers namely, the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) and the Scheme of Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisation. Under the scheme of NCLP, so far 100 projects have been sanctioned in child labour endemic states for the benefit of about 2.10 lakh children withdrawn from work.

Government is committed to the goal of eradication of child labour in all its forms beginning with children working in hazardous occupations.

P.M.'s assurance to create jobs

3449. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that employment in organised sector which was on increase since 1990 till 1997 when it was 281.5 million has come down to 281.2 million in 1999.

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Prime Minister has been assuring to create jobs but the pattern shows the higher the education level, the greater the chance of being unemployed;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to tackle the employment problem on war footing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) As per the information collected through Employment Market Information Programme of Directorate General of Employment & Training, the employment in organized sector which was increasing from 1990 till 1997 when it was 282.45 million, has come down to 281.13 million in 1999.

(b) to (d) At the instance of Hon'ble Prime Minister a Task Force under the chairmanship of Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Member, Planning Commission was set up to go into the details of employment generation taking place and suggest measures to create 100 million jobs (10 million each year) over a period of 10 years.

Higher unemployment rates with higher education levels has been persisting for quite some time even before the announcement of the task force. The main reasons for this trend are that the education and skill levels of the educated youth are generally not in tune with the requirements of the labour market.

The report of the task force is being analysed. Further action would depend on the acceptance of the report of the Task Force by the Government.

Changes in labour laws

3450. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has suggested changes in the existing labour laws in view of change in the working pattern on account of information and technology scenario;

(b) if so, the changes sought for and Government's views thereon; and

(c) the action taken to seek opinion of the other State Governments in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Certain amendment proposals to the I.D. Act, 1947 and Trade Union Act, 1926 have been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. These proposals have been formulated by the State Government to improve the investment climate and boost up exports from the State. Various amendments to the I.D. Act, 1947 are proposed based on